



County of Santa Cruz
Health Services Agency ♦ Environmental Health



Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission

701 Ocean Street, Room 312, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(831) 454-3154 TDD/TTY -Call 711 www.sceeh.com
EnvironmentalHealth@santacruzcounty.us

AGENDA

February 2, 2023, 7:00 PM

The meeting will be held both on Microsoft Teams and in person at **the Solarium Conference Room, at 1060 Emeline Avenue.**

PLEASE NOTE: The meeting room is on the second floor, above the Water Quality Lab entrance. The door must remain locked after hours, but staff will be able to see and provide access to all attendees as they arrive.

Agenda Item #	Start Time	End Time	Description
1	7:00	7:10	Call to Order
2			Roll Call
3			Approval of Minutes
4			Public comment for items not on the agenda
5	7:10	7:30	Climate Action and Adaption Plan (CAAP): Presentation by staff
6	7:30	8:00	County of Santa Cruz Stream Wood Program and the 2023 Atmospheric River Event: Presentation by Kristen Kittleson
7	8:00	8:15	Review Draft Biennial Report for 2021-22
8	8:15	8:45	Review 2023 Workplan: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• March agenda items, Changes to virtual meetings
9	8:45	9:00	Staff Report: Public Grant approvals, Invasive Species letter Commissioner Reports and Announcements
10		9:00	Adjourn

Items of Interest:

[Santa Cruz County CAAP Website \(arcgis.com\)](http://arcgis.com)

[6PPD: The Secret Killer of Puget Sound Salmon — The Nature Conservancy in Washington \(washingtonnature.org\)](http://washingtonnature.org)

[Brake Pad Legislation | Department of Toxic Substances Control \(ca.gov\)](http://ca.gov)

[Bill Text - AB-64 Fish and wildlife: beaver. \(ca.gov\)](http://ca.gov)

[Land Trust Raises \\$21 Million | Good Times](#)

The County of Santa Cruz does not discriminate on the basis of disability, and no person shall, by reason of a disability, be denied the benefits of its services, programs, or activities. This online meeting is available to anyone with a telephone. If you are a person with a disability and require special assistance in order to participate in the meeting, please contact Sean Abbey at (831) 454-2386 or TDD number (454-2123) at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting in order to make arrangements. Persons with disabilities may request a copy of the agenda in an alternative format. As a courtesy to those affected, please attend the meeting smoke and scent free.

Commissioner and Public Participation Information and Guidelines

Pursuant to AB 361 and Cal. Gov. Code section 54953, due to the ongoing COVID 19 state of emergency and upon recommendation of the County Health Officer, public meetings of the Fish and Wildlife Advisory Committee can be held both virtually and in person. Members of the public can join in person or via the Microsoft Teams link provided below.

If you have questions, please contact Sean Abbey at sean.abbey@santacruzcounty.us.

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 282 884 798 895

Passcode: ZaqXiX

[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)

Or call in (audio only)

[+1 831-454-2222,,478488972#](#) United States, Salinas

Phone Conference ID: 478 488 972#

[Find a local number](#) | [Reset PIN](#)

Click on the “Click here to join the meeting” link above. If you are asked to join Teams with an application, click on “No thanks” and open in the browser. You should not need to download the application to join the meeting.

Commissioners are expected to have their camera on, but cameras are optional for public attendees.

Please join the meeting a few minutes BEFORE 7:00 pm so that we can start at 7:00 pm. Staff will open the video conference at 6:50 pm. Feel free to chat and say hello before 7:00 pm.

Meeting Roles and Rules:

Chris Berry, Chair, will lead the meeting. Chair Berry will announce each agenda item, identify who will be leading an item and introduce discussion and public comment periods.

Sean Abbey, staff, will assist with roll call, note taking, and tracking who wants to speak. Please allow time for staff to make notes about any decisions. Sean will monitor both email and text messages during the meeting.

There will be a public comment period for each item and the Chair will invite the public to participate at the appropriate time.

During a discussion, if two or more people speak at the same time, please defer to the person who speaks first. In any moment where we have some confusion due to multiple people wanting to speak, please pause and let the Chair take the lead. The Chair will call on someone to speak.



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Meeting Minutes
December 1, 2022

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – 7:01 pm
2. **ROLL CALL**

District	Commissioner	Status	Commissioner	Status
I	Chris Berry	P	Samuel Adelson	P
II	Sandra Baron	P	David Somerton	P
III	Liz Alter	P	Jon Jankovitz	P
IV	VACANT		VACANT	
V	Jenni Gomez	P	Jen Michelsen	P

P = Present E = Excused A = Absent

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- **Motion to Approve Minutes:** Somerton, **Second:** Jankovitz,
- **All Ayes:** Minutes approved

4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

- Cpt Schindler: California Dept of Fish and Wildlife will receive a new patrol boat in in January. To be based in Moss Landing, this addition means all ocean patrol vessels have been recently updated. CDFW staffing levels are good but are currently down one warden in Watsonville area. A new group of academy graduates should be coming in January, which should fill that position.

5. **PUBLIC GRANTS PROGRAM:**

- **Grant Funding Awards:** Given the funding constraints, commissioners concluded that partial funding would likely be required. After discussing every proposal, commissioners scored each on the criteria provided in the Request for Proposals. Commissioner scores were then averaged for each proposal, and the proposals were ranked from highest to lowest average score. After reviewing the ranking, commissioners recommended full funding to the top two proposals and partial funding to the 3rd and 4th ranked proposals. Awards are as follows;

Proposal Title	Applicant	Funding Requested	Funding Recommended
Environmental Stewardship Pilot Project	Coastal Watershed Council	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00
Wildlife Rehabilitation	Native Animal Rescue	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00

Documenting Salmonid Movements in the SLR Watershed	California Trout	\$5,465.00	\$4,500.00
Kingfisher Flat Flood/Drought Emergency Preparedness	Monterey Bay Salmon & Trout Project	\$5,490.82	\$3,500.00

- **Motion to recommend proposed funding levels:** Alter **Second:** Michelson
- **All Ayes:** Proposed funding levels will be recommended to the Board of Supervisors for approval.
- Commissioners discussed what funding level to recommended for the 2023-24 grant cycle. Staff provided an update on the current status of the Propagation fund and Cpt Schindler provided additional background on how much funding is expected from fines and settlements. Cpt Schindler also provided additional information about how Santa Cruz Propagation funding levels compare to other areas in the region. Commissioners choose to defer recommending a funding level until the February meeting when more information should be available.

6. FEBRUARY AGENDA ITEMS:

- Commissioners plan to discuss the following items: recommended 2023-24 Grants funding amount, the workplan for 2023 and potential opportunities in 2023 to have inter-commission meetings with the Water Advisory Commission and the Commission on the Environment

7. STAFF AND COMMISSIONER REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Commissioner Reports:**
 - Berry: A workshop will be held the week of December 5th on the value of beavers in their ecosystems: [Lunch Chat: The Secret Power of Beavers — Tuolumne River Trust](#)
 - Alter: The CSU-WATER Conference is seeking CSU faculty, staff, and students who are interested in presenting their research and/or discussing their expertise as panelists on topics related to the conference theme: Our WATER's Future: Challenges and Next Steps. See attached call for presentations.

8. ADJOURN. Motion to Adjourn: Berry, **Second:** Jankovitz
All Aye: meeting adjourned at 8:44 pm.



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**FISH AND WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION
Report for Calendar Years 2021 and 2022**

Roles of the Commission

The Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission (Commission) advises the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors (Board) on issues relating to fish and wildlife, and recommends projects for funding with the County’s portion of Fish and Game Code fine monies and judgments.

Meeting Dates, Time and Location

The Commission meets generally seven times a year in February, March, May, June, September, November, and December at 7:00 pm. For all of 2021 and part of 2022, the commission meet remotely. Since June of 2022, the commission has used a hybrid format using both Teams and in-person at the Solarium at 1060 Emeline Ave, Santa Cruz.

Commission Structure

As of December 31, 2022, the Commission consisted of:

District	Commissioner	Commissioner
I	Chris Berry (C)	Samuel Adelson
II	VACANT	David Somerton
III	Liz Alter	Jon Jankovitz (VC)
IV	VACANT	VACANT
V	Jenni Gomez	Jen Michelsen

Commission Staff

Sean Abbey, Water Quality Specialist with Environmental Health, is the administrative staff person assigned to the Commission.

Annual Goals and Accomplishments – 2021 and 2022

Over 2021 and 2022, the Commission considered and made recommendations regarding a wide range of topics including; Low-Flow fishing closure criteria for the San Lorenzo River, updates on the Regional Conservation Investment Strategy (RCIS), use of mosquito fish to manage mosquitos by Vector Control, expansion of the County’s Significant Tree Ordinance outside the Coastal Zone, the County Sustainability update, share hunting of invasive species, fish passage improvement work,

and the Cotani-Coast Dairies National Monument. The Commission also wrote letters to the Board of Supervisors on 3 topics.

1. Summarizing the environmental harms of homeless encampments in riparian areas
2. Supporting a Low-Flow fishing closure criteria for the San Lorenzo River
3. Recommend support for invasive species management

The Commission continues to follow steelhead and coho salmon recovery efforts. Over the past two years, the Commission has supported state funding for coho recovery and has recommended grant allocations to support Monterey Bay Salmon and Trout Project, who are integral to coho salmon conservation in Santa Cruz County.

One of the primary tasks of the Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission is the Public Grants Program, an important funding source that supports local conservation organizations with small projects and outreach programs. This program relies on a portion of the revenue generated from the enforcement of the Fish and Game Code, through actions of local California Department of Fish and Wildlife wardens and the County's District Attorney.

- In 2021, the Commission recommended \$14,648 in funding for seven (7) projects that contributed to: rearing and releasing hatchery rainbow trout eggs by classrooms, a breeding bird atlas for Santa Cruz County, 4 conference scholarships to Salmonid Restoration Federation, a 4 – 5 day outdoor educational programs for 4,000 students, a 12-week afterschool program for 24 students, an educational course on squid anatomy and fishing practices, and a road repair effort for the Kingfisher Flat Salmon rearing facility.
- In 2022, the Commission recommended \$16,000 in funding for four (4) projects that contributed to: native animal rescue operations, creation of an environmental stewardship program, documenting salmonid movements in the San Lorenzo River, and emergency preparedness efforts at the Kingfisher Flat Salmon rearing facility.

Public Comments

The Commission provides a forum for members of the public to voice concerns or share information about fish and wildlife related issues. In the past two years, the Commission heard public comments that: support proactive management of wildfire prone areas to prevent hazardous materials found in homes and vehicles being burned, urge caution on use of goats for fire prevention, argue against the discussion of share hunting, support expansion of significant tree ordinance, support for RCIS strategic plan, gave notice of the North Coast Facilities Management Plan, gave notice of the restart of O'Neill sea odyssey program, updates on invasive bullfrog populations, the presence of chinook and coho salmon in local watershed, and warning about the reduction of wildlife habitat resulting from fire scaping.

Future Goals

The Commission scheduled 7 meetings for 2023 and plans to address a range of topics including, the County Climate Action and Adaptation Plan....

Additional items to be added at 2/2/2023 meeting may include: low-flow fishing closure regulations, the Regional Conservation Investment Strategy (RCIS), land and open space conservation and management, invasive plants, climate change and wildlife conservation, coho salmon and steelhead recovery planning, and riparian corridor enhancement.

The Commission will continue to provide a forum for public input regarding fish and wildlife issues.

Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission Attendance 2021 and 2022

2021

Commissioner	Feb	Mar	May	June	Sept	Nov	Dec
Berry	P	P	P	P	E	P	P
Alter	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Baron	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Wise	P	P	P	E	P	P	A
Gómez	P	P	P	P	E	P	P
Morrow	P	P	---	---	---	---	---
Jankovitz	P	P	E	P	P	P	P
Somerton	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Michelsen	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Buchwald	P	P	P	E	P	---	---
Crawford	---	---	P	P	P	P	P

2022

Commissioner	Feb	Mar	May	June	Sept	Nov	Dec
Berry	P	E	P	P	P	P	P
Alter	P	P	P	P	E	P	P
Baron	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Wise	P	A	E	E	A	---	---
Gómez	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Jankovitz	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Somerton	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Michelsen	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Crawford	P	P	---	---	---	---	---
Adelson	---	---	---	---	P	P	P

KEY: P = Present E= Excused A = Absent --- = not on the commission



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

FISH AND WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION

701 OCEAN STREET, ROOM 312, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060
(831) 454-3154 FAX: (831) 454-3128

January 22, 2023

County of Santa Cruz
Board of Supervisors
701 Ocean Street, 5th Floor
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Subject: Request for support for invasive, non-native species management

Dear Honorable Supervisors,

The Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission recommends that the Board of Supervisors work with the Agricultural Commissioner's Office, Community Development and Infrastructure, Public Works and other relevant County departments to form a staff working group that will evaluate County policies and programs related to the management of invasive, non-native species, provide direction on necessary policy development and identify alternative funding resources necessary for proactively managing this growing threat.

Invasive, non-native species are an increasing challenge to the effective management of our local native biodiversity. In addition, they can impact crucial activities in Santa Cruz county, including fire preparedness, water system operations, commercial agriculture, mining, forestry and other sectors. Invasive, non-native species of particular management concern in the County include (but are not limited to) French broom (as well as other broom species), giant reed, quagga and zebra mussels, English and German ivy, poison hemlock, crofton weed, blackwood acacia, forget-me-not, blue gum eucalyptus, oblong spurge, American bullfrog, Norway and roof rats, turkeys and many others. For more information on this problem please see the following links:

<https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Invasives/About>

https://www.cal-ipc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/TheTopOffenders_20171114.pdf

Santa Cruz County has amongst the highest biodiversity of any county in the State of California. While there are many non-native, invasive species challenging our County, the Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission (FWAC) is currently focused on invasive, non-native *plants* and their effects on local biodiversity. While projects that address all invasive species affecting the County's biodiversity will be considered, the FWAC has focused its 2022 grants program on projects which prioritize weed management. While some plants may warrant sales prohibitions similar to what was enacted by the County for American bullfrogs in 2012, other plants already have wide-spread existing populations and their management may require other strategies. For example, while French broom can be legally purchased in nurseries, it is already well-established in the County and education and support for eradication efforts may be a more effective strategy for controlling it. Similarly, many local non-native, invasive plants such as giant reed are already prohibited from being sold and yet still pose a threat of population expansion in the County. Fortunately, species such as giant reed may be manageable if resources for education and eradication are directed toward that effort in the near term.

It is our understanding that the County's Integrated Pest Management program (which has a substantial focus on non-native, invasive plant management) is currently in a rebuilding phase. We are also aware that fuel management standards along County roads are currently being re-evaluated. Fuel management along roads can exacerbate non-native, invasive plant issues if not carefully implemented. Finally, our local Weed Management Area (WMA) has been advocating for additional County resources to be targeted toward management of non-native, invasive plants for the past several years.

Therefore, the FWAC feels this is an opportune time to re-evaluate how the County is handling weed management, as well as other non-native, invasive species in general. It is evident that a comprehensive County-wide program is necessary in order to effectively manage the growing threat presented by these species. While the State of California has several programs focused on these issues and the County Agricultural Commissioner's office and various NGOs such as California Native Plant Society have existing programs, we are unaware of a unified strategy in the County government, nor are there dependable long term resources available for continuing this work in a rigorous manner. Dedicating a staff working group that would identify key stakeholders, County policy needs and priority areas for management, develop tolerance levels, monitoring standards and thresholds for action, prioritize target species, evaluate alternative funding sources, provide opportunities for collaboration and alignment amongst County departments and other activities would facilitate the County having greater control over this growing threat.

Examples of similar programs can be found in nearby jurisdictions including Valley Water, Marin Municipal Water Department, Solano County Water Agency, Santa Cruz Water Department, East Bay Regional Parks District, City of San Francisco, City of Salinas, City of Monterey, Santa Clara County Parks Department, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, California Department of Parks and Recreation and many others. These examples may provide additional ideas for further refining the program concept described above and related costs/benefits and opportunities/constraints. In lieu of additional dedicated staff to work on these issues, the chair of this staff working group could serve as the County's point-person on invasive species management issues with support from the local WMA and FWAC. State natural resource

agencies would likely support such a program with technical and financial support to the extent it is possible as well.

Thank you for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to reach out to the FWAC if you have further interest in these issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Berry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Chris Berry, Chair
Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street, Room 312
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

cc: WMA, CNPS, CDFW, Fire Safe Council of Santa Cruz County